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The Fiftieth Anniversary  
of the  
Rev. and Mrs. Snyder B. Simes

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A Memorial



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church  
View from Swanson Street, about 1870

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The Second Sunday in Advent  
December 8, 1918

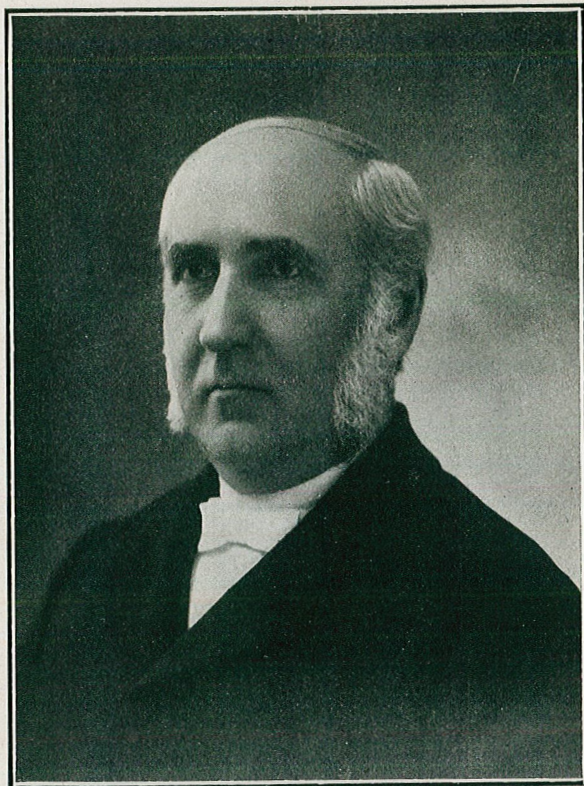
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THE BOOK OF MEMORY

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**Rev. Snyder Vinns Simes**

November 17, 1842—July 18, 1915

Rector of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

1868—1915

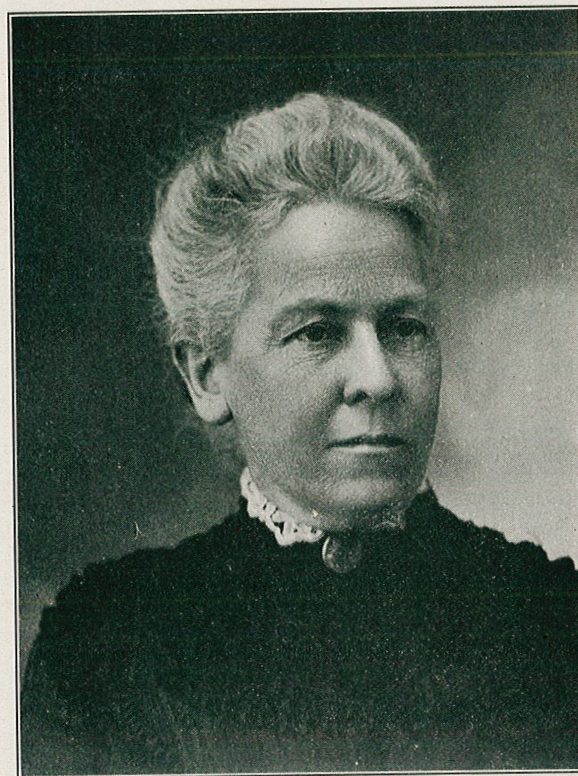
"In quietness and confidence  
shall be your strength."

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**Eleanor Richards Simes**

June 24, 1842 — February 21, 1918

"Always abounding in the work  
of the Lord."

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# A Memorial

*Being the biograph-  
ical narrative of  
the Rev. and Mrs.  
Snyder B. Simes,  
in relation to their  
long and fruitful  
Ministry at A  
Gloria Dei Church*



## THE BOOK OF MEMORY

### VESTRYMEN DURING MR. SIMES' RECTORSHIP

#### *Accounting Warden*

George M. Sandgran, 1864-'80 (Vestry, 1850-'51;  
1853-'54; 1864-'91)  
Robert B. Salter, 1880-'97 (Vestry, 1869-'97)  
James C. Sutton, 1897 (Vestry, 1893-)

#### *Rector's Warden*

John Redles, 1864-'81 (Vestry, 1863-'81)  
James Simpson, 1881-'87 (Vestry, 1873-'87)  
Seth Tyson, 1887-'95 (Vestry, 1874-'95)  
Charles E. Nock, 1895-'15 (Vestry, 1881-'15)

#### *Vestry*

Thomas Bleyler, 1915-	Park MacFarland, Jr., 1886-'89
John W. Breen, 1898-'11	A. J. McColley, 1879-'85
Richard E. Clay, 1910-'15	Daniel Mitchell, 1849-'50; 1860-'67; 1868-'79
R. Edey Clay, 1916-	Edward S. Oliver, 1895
Lodge Colton, 1895-'13	Samuel Palm, 1864-'65; 1866-'69
George Connor, 1868-'95	Walter L. Prickett, 1916-
William W. Dickhart, 1895-	Joseph N. P. Roberts, 1872-'75
Ralph E. Frazer, 1914	James Rutherford, 1876-'93
Lewis Gillingham, 1868-'71	John M. Salin, 1880-'85
Robert T. Graves, 1880-'83	William M. Setman, 1913-
Alfred Helmbold, Jr., 1883-'12	Richard Sharpe, 1853-'54; 1864-'75
John A. Houseman, 1851-'53, 1854-'95	Jacob R. Smith, Jr., 1895-'09
William Howard, 1871-'73	James G. Smyth, 1885-'86
John Kingston, 1872-'80	Thomas W. Sparks, 1906-
Peter F. Jann, 1890-'06	J. Lawrence Warner, 1911-
Joseph M. Lavell, 1887-	William Warner, 1872-'95
Frank MacFarland, 1892-	Thomas Winsmore, 1885-'16
Park H. MacFarland, 1854-'66, 1867-'68	

## Foreword



THE following biography is written with a view to recording the long and devoted service to Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church, rendered by the late Rev. Snyder B. Simes, and the late Eleanor R. Simes, his wife. It is intended to be a part of the Memorial observance of the Golden Anniversary of their coming to the Church, and also, of their wedding day.

As the Rector next in succession to Mr. Simes, it is the writer's privilege to have a part in the Memorial plans, and it falls to him to collect and relate the facts concerning the late rectorship. In undertaking this it is regretted that the absence of the personal note must be evident, since the writer was never intimately acquainted with Mr. Simes, and knew his widow only during the short period immediately preceding her death. This brief association, however, he regards as invaluable in contributing to an appreciation of the past fifty years.

In trying to make a statement of his predecessor's remarkable ministry as Rector of this historic Church, and his wife's equally distinguished services, the writer has in mind two main intentions: First, to make a permanent record of the life and work of those who have served the Church most faithfully and in memorable ways; for it seems only fitting that a Church of the age-long position which Old Swedes' occupies should do so. Hence, this biography is intended to take its place with that published last year in memory of the Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay, D. D. Both will become a part of the proposed "Book of Memory," which will contain a record of all memorials in the Church, and all memorable events concerning its history.

In the second place, since the members of the past generation scarcely associate any name but that of Simes with the Church of their loyalty and affection, it is hoped that this record may revive many happy and inspiring memories, and renew former blessings. For their sakes the details of several features of the past fifty years are given with minute fullness. A further purpose in making the record so complete, is that of picturing for the understanding of the future the manner and methods of conducting such a Parish in the last half of the nineteenth century.

It is not expected to write anything new in the following account; but to make record of those things which, familiar to some of the present congregation, might be forgotten and never accurately retold by the generations yet to succeed to the traditions and spirit of the past. Were this endeavor to receive the approval of the subjects of this biography, undoubtedly it would be with the wish that all the praise and glory should be given to God. It is written, therefore, as a tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Simes, but with the thought expressed in these words of Holy Writ, "Thy name, O Lord, endureth forever; so doth Thy memorial, from one generation to another."

Dedicated to the Congregation of Gloria Dei Church, by their friend and Rector,

PERCY R. STOCKMAN.

November, 1918.



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A list of Mr. Simes' assistants:

- \* Rev. John W. Norwood—1869.
- \* ‡ “ William B. Burk—1870-'72.
- “ W. George Ware—1876.
- \* † “ Henry S. Jefferys—1876-'81.
- ¶ “ John T. Carpenter—1881-'83.
- \* “ Henry Ashton Henry—1883-'86.
- \* “ William Knight McGown—1886-'89.
- § “ Isaac Martin, M. D.—1889-'96.
- \* “ Fleming James, Jr.—1900-'01.
- † “ Charles E. Betticher, Jr.—1901-'05.
- \* “ William F. Bayle—1905-'07.
- \* “ John Doberstine—1908.
- \* “ Aaron C. Coburn—1908-'11.
- \* “ William McClelland—1911-'14.
- \* “ Allen Evans, Jr.—1914-'17.

‡ Mr. Burk served in the summer vacation; in 1872 he was recommended by the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestry of Gloria Dei, to Bishop Stevens, to be ordained to the Diaconate.

\* All of the assistants thus indicated helped Mr. Simes in the capacity of lay readers, before they were ordained.

¶ Mr. Carpenter was a long-time friend of Mr. Simes and served him at many other times during the summer vacations, especially in later years.

§ Doctor Martin was greatly beloved by the congregation, and upon his death the Vestry set aside a grave in the Churchyard, in which he was buried in 1896.

† Mr. Betticher was ordained to the Diaconate in Gloria Dei Church, on Ascension Day, 1904; after which he served as a missionary in Alaska for a number of years. His father, the Rev. Charles E. Betticher, occupied the pulpit of the Church for several months following the death of Mr. Simes.

† Mr. Jefferys was ordained to the Diaconate, on the one hundred and seventy-ninth anniversary Sunday, in Gloria Dei, June 8, 1879. He went to Japan as a missionary in 1893.

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**Snyder Binns Simes**

1842-1915

**Eleanor Richards Simes**

1842-1918



As a period of the history of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church, Wicaco, which stands out pre-eminently for its contribution to the development and prosperity of the Church, the Rectorship of Mr. Simes holds an unique place in the record of the Church's ministry. As the fifteenth Rector of the Parish, whose forty-seven years in that office cover a longer span than that of any of his predecessors, and as the Superintendent of its Sunday Schools, Mr. Simes served with marked results both spiritual and material. His wife and close companion in all good works, Eleanor Richards Simes, was a leader in all the Church work of that period, and the teacher of some of its notable Bible Classes. Jointly, they were the spiritual guides and guardians of more than a generation of affectionate parishioners, children of the Church, and followers of the faith personified in them.

Mr. Simes' maternal grandfather was John Binns, an Irish patriot, whose zeal led to his incarceration in the Tower of London, followed by being sent in exile from England and the Colonies. He came to America in 1798, settling near York, Pa., and removing to Philadelphia in 1802. He became a prominent jurist and served as alderman of the city. He was the political sponsor of Governor Simon Snyder, of Pennsylvania, and one of his sons was named Simon Snyder Binns. His youngest daughter, Matilda, married John W. Simes, Jr., and became the mother of Snyder Binns Simes.

On his father's side, Mr. Simes' grandmother was Mary Forman, whose brother, General Forman, was in command of the Colonial Army in the Battle of Germantown.

Born November 17, 1842, Mr. Simes grew up in the atmosphere of old-fashioned Philadelphia, and was a noble example of its intellectual, conservative and refined spirit. He was educated in the public schools of the



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city,\* and graduated from the Central High School February 16, 1860, at which time he delivered an oration on "John Adams."

He was a member of the Moravian Church from childhood, and attended Moravian College at Bethlehem, Pa., with a view to entering the ministry; but objecting to the form of government of that body, he withdrew and joined the Protestant Episcopal Church; being confirmed by Bishop Stevens in 1863. He entered the Seminary at Princeton in 1862, and remained there until 1864. In the meantime the Philadelphia Divinity School of the Protestant Episcopal Church was founded and he took the last year of his course there. He always held a warm affection for his class at the Princeton Seminary, and at one of its reunions, about 1887, by special invitation, he delivered the class oration.

Mr. Simes was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Stevens, of Pennsylvania, in Epiphany Church, at Fifteenth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, June 23, 1865. As the assistant of the noted Rector of the Church of the Epiphany, the Rev. Richard Newton, Mr. Simes began his ministry. On January 14, 1867, in the Epiphany Church, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Vail, of Kansas.

Eleanor Richards Simes was the second daughter of Samuel Simes, brother of John W. Simes, Jr., and a prominent Philadelphia druggist, whose place of business for many years was at the N. W. corner of Twelfth and Chestnut Streets. From earliest childhood she was associated with the Church of the Covenant, which at that time was located on Filbert Street above Seventeenth. For many years she had a large infant class in the Sunday School there, which she taught until her marriage. It was said of her that she showed remarkable judgment and tact as a young woman, which characteristics remained throughout her life. One of her

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\* An interesting record of which is found in the autobiography of the late Governor Samuel B. Pennypacker, who speaks of Snyder B. Simes as a fellow-classmate in the Northwest Grammar School, on Race Street between Broad and Fifteenth.

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family describes her "as a sister, loving, patient, thoughtful, true as gold, untiring and discreet."

### Called to Gloria Dei

At a meeting of the Vestry of Gloria Dei Church, held October 20, 1868, eight names were placed in nomination for Rector, including that of the Rev. Snyder B. Simes, and on November 16th, at a special meeting for the election of a Rector, he was the Vestry's choice. Three years previously, in the fall of 1865, he had been waited upon by a committee of the Vestry, and offered the Rectorship made vacant by the resignation of the Rev. J. W. Leadenham, who, as the assistant to the Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay, in the last year of his ministry, had been called to succeed him on the event of his death, in 1863. At the time of his first call to Gloria Dei Church, Mr. Simes was but twenty-three years of age and had just graduated from the Divinity School. He was as yet not ordained as priest, and he felt the responsibility of Rectorship too great to be undertaken just then. Besides, as assistant to Doctor Newton, it is quite probable that he valued the associations with that notable divine too highly to relinquish them so soon. Upon Mr. Simes' declination, and largely at his suggestion, it is said, the Rev. J. Sanders Reed was elected Rector of Gloria Dei. In the early fall of 1868 Mr. Reed resigned, and it was then that the Vestry turned once more to Mr. Simes, who was still assisting at the Church of the Epiphany. In accepting his second election by the Vestry of Old Swedes', Mr. Simes became Rector of his first and only Parish in the long years of his fruitful ministry. At the monthly meeting of the Vestry, held on December 7th, Mr. John Redles announced for the Committee on Notification, that the Rev. Mr. Simes would take charge on the second Sunday of December, which in that year fell on the thirteenth day of the month.

Mr. and Mrs. Simes were married in the Church of the Epiphany, by Doctor Newton, on Tuesday, December 8, 1868, and five days later Mr. Simes preached his first sermon as the Rector of Gloria Dei Church.



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Fifty years later, on the Memorial anniversary of that first service, some few members of the congregation still present vividly recalled meeting Mr. and Mrs. Simes for the first time and worshipping under his leadership. They are remembered as a handsome couple, gracious and kindly, of distinguished presence and winning personality. Mr. Simes was of large physique, but not overly strong. On his thirteenth anniversary he took occasion to give thanks to God for the health which had been granted him from the time of his coming to the Church.

### Establishing Parochial Relationships

Mr. and Mrs. Simes found a congregation of substantial people, an influential part of a thriving community in one of the oldest and most desirable dwelling sections of the city. The Government Navy Yard, at the foot of Federal Street, was almost at the door of the Church, and a colony of business men and Government employees, representing various shipping interests and naval circles, was close by. Slightly north of the Church, on the river front, was one of the largest of the city's ship yards and drydocks, owned and operated by a family belonging to the congregation of Old Swedes'. The Church itself, the oldest in the history of the city, dignified by its traditions, and attended by a devoted congregation, many of whom traced their connection back to the early days of the Church and the Swedish Colonial period, provided an attractive field for such service as Mr. and Mrs. Simes were best qualified to render.

Settled in the Rectory, they soon became identified with the work of the Parish and were the source and center of its activity. Those early days hold many happy memories as the occupants of the Rectory and the congregation of the Church were becoming acquainted with one another. It is narrated how on various occasions the Rectory was taken by surprise and showers of household articles and tokens of affection were presented on behalf of the Church members. Financial problems in

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the Church were taken up and quickly solved by a ready and loyal co-operation. The enthusiasm and good-will of the young Rector and his bride were responsively met by the whole-hearted support of the congregation. The momentum given to the Parish relationships in those early years enabled many later projects to be carried through; and for some, at least, outlasted the changes which time brought about in the neighborhood and in the Church.

Never having children in the Rectory home; and, in course of time, provided with ample means to live independent of the stipend paid by the Church, Mr. and Mrs. Simes were able to share in an unique manner all the interests of the Parish. Their mutual affection was deep and striking; and their interests were largely held in common. It is said that they learned shorthand together in the days of their courtship—a possible means to a happy end—and in their years of service, like many other faculties possessed in common, it served not only their work, but their comradeship in their work, as well. Mr. Simes' sermons were usually written in short-hand, and Mrs. Simes frequently made notes for his use in like manner, and it was the medium of their confidential correspondence. They were inseparable companions in recreation, as well as in their work. It was their annual custom, for many years, to take some trip in the summer vacation, which was usually from two to three months in duration. These experiences were always put to some practical service in the Parish, in the form of lectures and addresses, whereby the people could share the experiences and derive an interest in distant missions and foreign lands.

In the summer of 1887 they went to California, visiting many towns, staying principally in Pasadena; and after Mr. Simes' death, it was there that Mrs. Simes sought rest and refuge for nearly a year. In 1890 they went to Alaska, and for years to come their interest in Alaskan missions was manifested by generous gifts, personal and through the Church; and this interest became all the greater in later years when one of the



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assistants to Mr. Simes became a missionary in that distant field. At other times they went abroad to England and Switzerland; and one year to Russia, visiting St. Petersburg (Petrograd), Moscow and other places, and bringing back many interesting pictures. They traveled extensively through Norway and Sweden, seeing the ways of the people in the places from which the founders of Old Swedes' Church came, and visiting the "Land of the Midnight Sun." Upon their return, Mr. Simes delivered a most interesting account of the trip from the pulpit of the Church.

### A Most Notable Rectorship

Perhaps the outstanding features of the nearly fifty years spent at Old Swedes' may be said to have been: First, the enthusiasm and happiness which marked all the Church work in the early days, and remained as characteristic of the Sunday School throughout the whole period; second, the raising of the Endowment Fund, which was accomplished in the middle years of Mr. Simes' ministry; third, the wonderful missionary offerings of the Sunday School, which reached the high-water mark during the closing period; and fourth, the improvement to Church property, the reverence for the old traditions, and the emphasis upon the perpetual nature of the trust committed to the congregation, which characterized the whole course of his Rectorship. As Pastor and Administrator, Mr. Simes was most capable.

When Mr. Simes accepted the election as Rector of Gloria Dei, the grounds about the Church were but poorly kept up, a wooden fence marked the Swanson Street boundary, and the Church roof was in disrepair. The interior of the Church was about as it had been ever since the renovation of 1846 under Doctor Clay. There was no middle aisle, but two side aisles, and a narrow aisle crossed the Church from the Vestry room to the South door. The pews were upholstered, and at the Chancel end on each side a small pew faced in toward the opposite side. The Chapel, or larger Sunday School building, had just been finished, and had a low,

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flat roof. It was heated by stoves. The Rectory was without its present wooden back-buildings, and the Church yard was very low and marshy in some places.

### The First Vestry

The first meeting of the Vestry presided over by Mr. Simes, was held on Monday evening, January 4, 1869, being the regular monthly meeting of that body. The laymen on the Vestry at that time numbered but nine, and consisted of the following members,—Swedish descendants, George Connor, Daniel Mitchell, Sigismund Morrison, Samuel Palm, John Redles, George M. Sandgran; and, non-Swedes, John A. Houseman, Lewis Gillingham, and Richard Sharp. Mr. Sandgran was the Warden, and Mr. Redles, Secretary; the lay deputies to the Diocesan Convention were Messrs. Gillingham, Sandgran and Sharp. There was but one change in the personnel of the Vestry in 1869, Mr. Robert A. Salter being elected in place of Mr. Palm; and Mr. Redles was appointed as the Rector's Warden, the first time that office seems to have been recognized. In 1872, twelve Vestrymen were elected, the change requiring that number being incorporated in an amended Charter which was secured that year. Meanwhile Mr. William H. Howard had succeeded Mr. Gillingham, and the three additional names of the enlarged Vestry were those of John Kingston, Joseph W. P. Roberts, and William Warner.

### Repairs and Improvements

During the first summer it was found necessary to undertake some substantial repairs and improvements, a loan for \$1,500 was negotiated for the purpose, and the Church was ordered closed from July 18th to September 12th. The pews were to be re-upholstered, a drain laid in the low part of the yard, and a new Communion table replaced that which had been serving the purpose since 1846. Early in the fall of 1869 a bazaar was held in the large Sunday School building, lasting a week, for the benefit of the repairs to the Church. At this affair about \$1,200 was raised; the balance of the



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improvement fund being raised by private subscription, the total cost of the work being something over \$2,200. In 1871 there was another bazaar, lasting ten days, at which over \$1,100 was cleared for the benefit of the Church funds.

Many other important repairs to the Church and adjacent property were made during Mr. Simes' time, the most important are referred to below. It cost \$2,500 in 1881-82 to provide better drainage for the Churchyard, and repairs to the Sexton's house, painting of the interior of the Church about the Chancel, repairing the Church heater, and making over the appearance of the interior of the Chapel, or main Sunday School building. The effect of the latter work is thus described: "It had been painted one uniform tint of brown, that had grown dark and dingy. This has given place to bright cheerful tints, harmonious in tone and pleasing to the eye. The ceiling is divided into three panels and painted with a ground-work of blue, and stencilled with appropriate designs. The side-walls are in two compartments, the lower one in plain neutral tint giving repose and effect to the brighter tint of the upper division, and separated from it by borders in stencil work. Behind the desk there is a panel in color, surrounded by an ornamental border. The gas-fixtures are painted blue, and in place of the unsightly stoves, a furnace, amply sufficient for the purpose, has been substituted. Whilst regardful of beauty, utility has also been consulted by placing a ventilator in the ceiling." In 1895 the Chapel was once more renovated, and the flat ceiling gave place to a peaked roof. For this purpose the Easter Offering of the Sunday School provided about half the cost, which totaled over \$1,400.

In 1882 a fireproof vault was built into the South Vestibule of the Church, for the preservation of the Church records, and the safe-keeping of other valuables. In 1883 a new roof of tin was placed on the Church. In 1884 the old Sunday School building, containing the rooms of the Infant School and Bible Class, was fitted up and repainted.

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The interior of the Church was thoroughly repainted in 1886, and new carpets laid, and new gas fixtures put in, at a total expense slightly in excess of \$800. The largest undertaking was that of 1896, when the old pews were taken out and all upholstering permanently done away with; the original plan of a middle aisle revived, and two side aisles formed against the walls, the interior of the Church repainted, antique gas fixtures installed, the Chancel rail made straight across the Church, and small tiles laid in the aisles, with three flag stones, which had been found under the Chancel marking the tombs of three of the early Swedish Rectors, placed in the middle aisle. Also, the Church was repaired and painted outside, and the old Sunday School building thoroughly renovated. The expense for all this was very nearly \$3,200. The work was supervised by Mr. George C. Mason, a distinguished Philadelphia architect. After being closed all summer, for the work of renovation and restoration, the Church was reopened on September 6th, at 10.30 A. M. The service consisted of the shortened form of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, and the Rector preached from the text, "Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised Thee." Is. 64: 11.

A brick wall bounding the Church property on Swanson Street, on the south side of the Church, was erected in 1898 at a cost of more than \$1,400. All the buildings in the Churchyard were repainted in 1900. The old organ had been cleaned and repaired in 1872; and in 1903 a new organ was installed at an expense of about \$4,300. In 1906 a hot-water heating system was put in the Rectory, and in 1908 in the Church; and later in the other buildings of the yard, except the Chapel.

The old burying ground, connected with the shot-tower at Front and Carpenter Streets, was disposed of in 1872, the proceeds being divided between the three Swedish Churches, which held title in their corporate name when they had been united under one Rector. In 1911 Gloria Dei purchased from the other two their share in the property immediately adjoining its Churchyard on the north.



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### The Financial Administration

The financial condition of the Parish always made heavy demands upon the personal effort and interest of the Rector. The expenses were not large for such a Church, but the income barely met the current charges. For the year 1869-70, according to the annual report of the Auditing Committee of the Vestry, the total income was \$2,498, of which pew rents amounted to \$783.19, and \$1,153.43 was the net income from the collection of ground rents and mortgages from the Church's principal fund. The expenses for the same report showed a total of \$2,497, including \$1,500 paid the Rector and \$237.50 paid the Sexton. The report to the Diocesan Convention for that year indicated 250 Communicant members of the Church.

These facts are of interest as a basis for illustrating the great growth and development of the Church's resources during the first twenty years of Mr. Simes' Rectorship. Through an increased attendance, and by revision of the pew rents, that part of the income made a notable advance. In 1871 there were 295 sittings in the Church, of which 123 rented at \$6 annually, 128 at \$5, and 36 at \$4. Apparently but little over half of these were regularly paid for, and there were some exemptions, including five assigned to the Rector, and two to the Sexton. By May 6, 1872, the Rector and Wardens were able to report that there were but 19 unrented sittings, and the pew rents amounted to over \$1,500. In 1886 they brought in \$1,816.50, and for the next twenty years averaged about \$1,600. The loyalty of the congregation during the succeeding years is suggested by the fact that although the attendance greatly decreased, the pew rents for 1915 amounted to over \$1,900.

The other chief source of income consisted of a number of ground rents, on property held by the Church from the Colonial days, and other rentals or interest on property and mortgages held from early times or received as bequests and gifts from time to time. Through the latter part of the Swedish period, as is well understood,

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a very lax business administration had allowed many of the properties of the Church to be lost by neglect. Only the more careful methods of Dr. Clay and his Vestries had saved to the Church some small portion of the original holdings.

Fortunately for the Church, Mr. Simes was a man of sound business judgment, and it was said of him by his friend and legal adviser, and acknowledged by many others, that in the business field his acumen and ability would have won him unbounded success. Also, he was associated with some of the best business men in the District of Southwark, amongst the members of his Vestries; so that, by their united efforts, the strength of the Church on its financial side was made both progressive and permanent. The collection of the ground rents and other rentals was always committed to a stated collector, annually appointed by the Vestry, of whom there were three during the fifty-year period; namely, Messrs. John Kingston, David Conrade and Thomas A. Redding (later, Thomas A. Redding and Son). The collection of pew rents was entrusted to the Rector, and for a number of years Mr. Simes held stated hours when he received those who came twice a year to the Rectory to pay for their sittings in the Church. There is no record of any pew having been rented as a whole, each sitting being separately assigned. Only in the last year of his charge was the custom of endowing pews instituted, that in memory of Mr. Richard E. Clay, being the first one.

### An Endowment Project

Early in his ministry as the Rector of Old Swedes', Mr. Simes realized the necessity of adding to the permanent funds of the Church, and so this was brought to the attention of the Vestry, who appointed a Committee which presented a report, at the meeting on Easter Monday, 1879, in which the following preamble and resolutions were incorporated:

*"Whereas, The financial condition of the Parish is now, through God's blessing, quite prosperous, yet as no provision has been made for extraordinary emergencies that might be occasioned by rebuilding or removal, therefore*



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*"Be it Resolved, That an Endowment Fund be and is hereby created to be known as 'THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF GLORIA DEI CHURCH,' of which the Rector, Accounting Warden and one Vestryman shall be Trustees, who shall keep all contributions received separate and apart from all other funds of the Church, invest the same with the accruing interest, and shall allow no part thereof or the income derived therefrom, to be used for any purpose whatever (except in case of the destruction or removal of the church) until the fund shall reach the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) and then only the income thereof.*

*"Resolved, That this trust is binding in law and in conscience on the Church Corporation, and must and shall be strictly observed until the 200th Anniversary of the erection of the Church, viz., the first Sunday after Trinity, A. D. 1900, when the income of the Fund accumulated may be applied to the support of the Parish.*

*"Resolved, That the Rector be requested to bring this subject before the congregation on Trinity Sunday (June 8, 1879); that a box marked 'Endowment Fund' be placed in the vestibule of the Church for the contributions of the people, and that the many friends of 'Old Swedes' be earnestly exhorted to remember this Fund in the disposing of their worldly estates."*

For twenty-one years this was constantly kept before the congregation and friends of the Church, and the fund steadily grew. The first anniversary offering for the purpose, taken June 8, 1879, amounted to \$233.35, and that of June 12, 1899, which was the last special offering designated for the Endowment, realized \$665.50. The original Trustees were the Rector and Messrs. John Redles, and Robert B. Salter; and later Mr. John A. Houseman was included. Those who saw the completion of the fund were, the Rector, and Messrs. James C. Sutton and Thomas Winsmore. A very careful record of all contributions was made, and sums ranging from twenty-five cents to one thousand dollars are listed. Sunday School teachers and children, members of the congregation and many friends of the Church from all parts of the country made up a great aggregate of contributors throughout the years. At the Vestry meeting of April 26, 1886, a resolution of thanks and appreciation was extended to Mrs. Samuel Simes, the mother of Mrs. Simes, for her generous gift of \$1,000 to the Endowment Fund; and on June 4, 1888, a similar gift from Mrs. Susanna M. Webb was acknowledged in like manner.

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The fund already exceeding the goal set by over three hundred dollars, plans were made in the spring of 1900 for a special observance of the Bi-centennial of the Church. There were three services on that day, the first Sunday after Trinity. At Morning Prayer at ten-thirty, the two daughter churches of Gloria Dei were represented by their Rectors, the Rev. S. Lord Gilbertson, of St. James', Kingsessing and the Rev. A. Augustus Marple, of Christ Church, Upper Merion; the sermon was preached by the Rev. Jesse Y. Burk, Rector of St. Peter's Church, Clarksboro, N. J. At four o'clock Evening Prayer, Old Christ Church was represented by its Rector, the Rev. C. Ellis Stevens, and St. Peter's by its Rector, the Rev. Richard H. Nelson; the Rt. Rev. Leighton Coleman, Bishop of Delaware, preaching the sermon. At Evening Prayer at 8 o'clock, the Rev. Leverett Bradley, Associate Rector of the Church of St. Luke and Epiphany, and Dean of the Southeast Convocation of Philadelphia, and the Rev. William Knight McGown, Rector of Grace-Emmanuel Church, New York, a former Assistant at Gloria Dei, were present; and the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Pennsylvania, the Rt. Rev. O. W. Whitaker.

Undoubtedly, the far-seeing plan to raise this Endowment Fund, and its successful accomplishment, were responsible, in part, at least, for the two generous bequests which have since been made to the Church. There is the bequest of 1907, provided by the will of Dr. Charles J. Stillé, at one time Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, and always an interested friend of the Church, his Swedish ancestors having been settlers in the Colony at Wicaco and members of Gloria Dei congregation. And also, Mrs. Simes' bequest, made known upon her death in 1918, by which the Church became her principal legatee. Thus, through the persevering efforts and whole-hearted zeal of Mr. and Mrs. Simes, with the effective co-operation of the Vestry and the Church's many friends, the endowment funds of Gloria Dei, which, in 1868 could not have represented much over \$30,000,



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have increased to the principal sum of approximately \$200,000 fifty years later.\*

Not only did Mr. Simes' financial efforts result in insuring the preservation of the Church property and grounds; but he secured a foundation for continuous service to the community. Anyone adding to the funds of the Parish in the future will know that their gifts will be a part of a process of extension and will find use in connection with a permanent structure. In a sense, this of itself is a monument to the life and labors of both Mr. and Mrs. Simes.

### In Relation to Earlier Periods

On one occasion, during Mr. Simes' administration, in 1872, the Charter was amended, by action of the Court of Common Pleas, chiefly with a view to changing the mode of nominating Vestrymen. The By-laws were changed in 1872, and again in 1884.

Mr. Simes took great pains in making clear the absolute right of the Episcopal Church to the ownership of Old Swedes', and in 1888 he was the author of a pamphlet setting forth the history and principles of the transmission of ownership. This was entitled, "The Swedes and the Protestant Episcopal Church." He was always most ready to pay tribute to the early history of the Church, and never tired of setting forth its traditions. He published many little folders giving the history of the Church in outline, for the benefit of strangers and visitors, whom he always made welcome.

### A Faithful Pastor

As the administrative head of a Parish facing a crucial period in its constructive history, Mr. Simes was most successful. As the pastoral leader of a congregation representing persons in all walks of life and of many varied interests, he achieved an equally good name. His winning personality and kindly manner attracted people to him, and his sincerity held them. It might well be said of him, "To see was to admire; to know, to

\* Since 1900, by reason of a few additional gifts and bequests, and especially because of the very careful management of the Accounting Warden, Mr. James C. Sutton, the Bi-Centennial Endowment Fund by 1918, amounts to about \$58,000, which is included in the figures given.

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love." Mrs. Simes was equally to be remarked, a woman of strong and enduring character, an inspiring and directive force in the Church life. As in other things, so in much of the pastoral work, Mr. and Mrs. Simes were ever as one; whether calling in the homes of the congregation together, or planning the welfare of the Parish work, their individual talents combined and blended for the good of all. Nothing is a greater tribute to their influence than the affection they inspired in those thrown into closest association with them. These friends and fellow-workers came to recognize a bond between them which distance could not break nor changes sever. Few ministries, however long their service in one place, could point to such affectionate loyalty as were shown to these worthy servants of the Lord. It is typical and suggestive to be able to record, among many illustrative instances of this, that of a family identified with the Church through three generations under Mr. Simes' leadership; each generation being represented on the Vestry, and one member of the family, who as a young girl taught the Infant School when Mr. Simes came to the Church, remaining in charge of that Department and participating as its head in the Golden Anniversary. A scholar in the Infant School, now assisting in that Department; and a teacher in the Girls' Department of the Sunday School at the beginning of Mr. Simes' ministry and still at her post fifty years later, are other instances. Many others, coming into the Parish after the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Simes, continued faithful to them and to the Church despite the difficulties of attendance and the changes time had wrought. It is worthy of note that the grandson of the Rev. Doctor Clay was a member of Mr. Simes' last Vestry, and that two of the boys in the Sunday School when Mr. Simes became its Superintendent were members of the Vestry at the time when his earthly duties ended.

### Memorable Church Services

A review of some of the chief events in the years when there were many to serve and the services were many should be recorded. In the fall of 1869 a series



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of United Services, covering a period of three weeks, were announced jointly by the Rev. Samuel Durborow, Rector of the Church of the Evangelists, near Eighth and Catharine Streets; the Rev. John W. Brown, Rector of Trinity Church, on Catharine Street above Second; and the Rector of Gloria Dei. This seems to have been the beginning of a long period of Christian fellowship between the Protestant Episcopal Churches of Southwark. During the Lenten season of 1871 the Church of the Redeemer, at Front and Queen Streets, the Rev. Washington B. Erben, Rector, joined with the foregoing three Churches in holding special week-day services. This was continued for several years, the number of co-operating Churches increasing, and including at times the Church of St. John the Evangelist at Third and Reed Streets; and St. Timothy's Church at Eighth and Reed Streets. There were numerous occasions on which groups of these Churches combined for common worship and mutual benefit.

The year 1874 saw the establishment of several customs in the services of Gloria Dei. On January 18th, that year, the first monthly "Service of Song" was held, on Sunday evening. This became a very popular service, for which Mr. Simes prepared a special program and printed leaflet each month. The hymns were bright and everybody sang. A choir of young people led the singing. The preaching was vivid and sometimes on striking topics, such as "The Slave and the Freeman," "The Confession of Christ," "Saying and Doing," etc. Many were drawn to these monthly services who attended nowhere else, and the services were continued, except in the summer, for over twenty years.

On April 5, 1874, at 6 A. M., the first early service of the Easter Day was held. So inspiring was this custom, that it continued beyond the earthly years of the one who first observed it. It happily introduced the services of what was the happiest day of the Church year in the Parish. A newspaper account of the Easter services on the above date tells us, "The congregation of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church celebrated in a fitting way the

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glorious Easter festival. There was an early service at 6 A. M., when special anthems and other music were sung. A sermon was delivered by the Rector, from the text, 'Now Is Christ Risen from the Dead.' Holy Communion was administered to a large number at 10½ A. M. The Easter celebration of the Sunday Schools took place at 3 P. M. A number of beautiful hymns and carols were sung by the children. The ancient Church was richly decorated, the principal design being an immense star, 'all radiant with light.' The old font was covered with flowers." On Easter Monday, April 14, 1879, a daily paper gave the following figures of the attendance at the morning services of Old Swedes' on the previous day:

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Early:	6.00	76	242	59	377
Morning Service:	10.30	105	258	167	530
Total .....		181	500	226	907

From all parts of the city people attended the early Easter service, and for years the first comers assembled before the closed Church while it was yet dark, and frequently during the service even standing room could not be provided for all who sought admission. There was always special music, the regular choir being augmented for the occasion.

On New Year's Eve, 1873, Mr. Simes instituted the custom of a watch-night service at Gloria Dei, the Rectors and congregations of neighboring Churches participating. This became an annual observance at Old Swedes' and was continued until Mr. Simes' later years.

### A Pleasing Custom

On September 3, 1871, upon his return from the summer vacation, Mr. Simes was greeted at the morning service by the children of the Sunday School singing a special anthem of welcome which had been composed in honor of the occasion and set to music in which they had



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been carefully trained. This became an established custom for many years, Mr. W. H. Ruddiman being the composer of some of the earlier "Welcomes," to which G. H. Luckenbach, organist of the Second Reformed Church, contributed the music, the children being trained by Mr. James Montgomery. Later Mr. Thomas H. Adams, the Church organist, composed the music and trained the children for these occasions, the verses being contributed by Mr. Ruddiman and Mr. F. H. Wells, of the *Evening Bulletin*. On one occasion, Mr. George S. Fullerton wrote the words. In later times the Church organist, Prof. A. A. DuBois, wrote both the words and music.

The hymn of welcome used the first time breathes the spirit of them all, and was as follows:

Servant of God! a welcome hand  
We proffer thee today,  
A watchman on our walls to stand  
To point the Living Way.  
The children greet thee with delight,  
In their sweet Sabbath home—  
And all in joyous song unite  
As birds when Spring has come.

### CHORUS

Welcome! Welcome! Join our voices,  
Join the Church in thankful song,  
Jesus! bless our chosen Pastor,  
Warm his heart and fire his tongue.

This little vine will need thy care,  
That fruitful it may grow—  
These lambs a shepherd's love should share  
To keep them from the foe.  
Dear Saviour! fill our Pastor's heart  
With tender words of Truth—  
Thy precepts let his lips impart  
To win and save our youth.

To feed the flock of Christ be thine,  
To lead in pastures green—  
Thy mission is a work divine  
Of God and angels seen.  
We welcome thee our Pastor friend!  
And place us in thy care—  
"May Jesus all thy ways attend,"  
Shall be the children's prayer.

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### An Evangelical Churchman

As a preacher Mr. Simes was direct, devotional, simple and evangelical. His services were orderly and appropriate to the atmosphere of the Church. He was one of the last of the distinguished group of Philadelphia clergymen, who could be described as "low Church gentlemen of the old school." He always observed the custom of preaching in the black gown of an earlier period, and made no marked changes in the mode of worship introduced by Doctor Clay. A clerical friend wrote of him in an obituary notice, "Mr. Simes—was rarely, if ever, absent from his pulpit. His sermons were clear, forceful and helpful. No one could attend the Church services and listen to his pure Gospel teaching without being spiritually benefited, and feeling that 'it was good for him to have been there.'" In the early years of his ministry he instituted many special services which became very popular and the means of drawing large numbers to the Church. He was ever ready to observe all anniversary occasions, keeping the Sunday before Christmas as the annual reminder of the founding of the Sunday School, and the first Sunday after Trinity to recall the dedication of the Church. On these latter occasions there was always a historical sermon in the morning, by the Rector, who found the history of the Swedish Colonial period, and the careers of his predecessors in the Rectorship, full of anecdote and interest, which he transmitted to the congregation. On the afternoons of the Church's anniversary some invited speaker, usually a prominent clergyman, preached. In later years, the afternoon service was preceded by an organ recital.

### Anniversaries

Among the special anniversaries and services which took place in Mr. Simes' day, there was that of 1870, when he seems to have begun his series of historical sermons. On the Sunday commemorating the one hundred and seventieth anniversary of the dedication of the Church he chose as his text that preached by Pastor



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Biorek at that first service, the words being those at the close of David's prayer of thanksgiving when Nathan announced to him that his son should build a house for the Lord to dwell in, as given in II Samuel 7:29, "Therefore, now let it please Thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue forever before thee; for thou, O Lord God, hast spoken it; and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed forever." This text was his inspiration on frequent occasions, notably when at the anniversary services, on June 19, 1876, the Swedish Commissioners, who were attending the Bi-Centennial of America's Independence, were, by resolution of the Vestry, particularly invited to take part in the exercises at the Church. A contemporary account of this service, gives this vivid picture: "In the front pews sit members of the Exposition Commission, and others—C. Julian Dannfelt, Royal Swedish Centennial Commissioner; Baron Hermelin, in charge of the Swedish Art Department; Dr. K. M. Thoden, Professor in the University of Upsala; the Rev. J. P. Tustin, D. D., ex-commissioner of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church on 'Friendly Intercourse with the Church of Sweden'; and Dr. Charles J. Stillé, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, who this morning stood by the grave of his ancestor. What a contrast to the first congregation!"

At the request of the Swedish Commissioners this sermon, and the one delivered in the afternoon by Doctor Tustin, were published in pamphlet form.

### Other Noteworthy Occasions

In 1877, the Bi-Centennial of the founding of the Church in the old Swedish Block-house was observed; and in 1882 the Bi-Centennial of the landing of William Penn was the subject of a sermon by the Rector. The anniversary of 1900 was particularly notable by reason of its being the two hundredth anniversary of the dedication of the Church and the completion of the Endowment Fund.

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On October 16, 1870, Christine Nilsson, the celebrated Swedish soprano, attended service at the Church; and in 1905, the Swedish Chorus, en route to the St. Louis Exposition, visited the Church and sang several numbers within its walls. On the one hundred and eighty-ninth anniversary Sunday, at the afternoon service, Dr. Charles J. Stillé read a paper entitled, "A Visit to the Swedish Fatherland." During Lent of that year the custom was instituted of holding week-day services on Saturday afternoons, the ladies of the Church meeting at an earlier hour to prepare the Lenten box, annually sent to some needy mission, under Mrs. Simes' direction.

On September 26, 1902, Mr. Simes preached a sermon against Mormonism. On June 4, 1900, the Southeast Convocation of the Diocese met at the Church. On Friday, September 30, 1904, under the escort of Bishop Mackay-Smith, His Grace, Randall Cantuar, Archbishop of Canterbury, paid a visit to the Church. March 31, 1908, the members of the Scandinavian Society attended a special service in the Church. On Sunday, October 4, 1908, the official municipal service of "Founder's Week," being the two hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the City of Philadelphia, was held in Gloria Dei Church. The Rector preached on the text, "I, Too, Am a Citizen of No Mean City." Mayor Reyburn, with his official family, attended. The American Daughters of the Revolution held a service in the Church on June 2, 1899.

In 1912, Mr. Simes attended the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of St. James' Church, Kingsessing, and preached the sermon. On the occasion of his own forty-fifth anniversary, in December, 1913, he was presented with a loving cup, the gift of the clergy who had been his assistants, many of whom were present at the service. The cup was inscribed as follows: "To the Rev. Snyder B. Simes, on his forty-fifth anniversary as Rector of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church, Philadelphia. This gift from the clergy, who as students, served as his assistants. 'In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.'"



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### The Sunday School and Organizations

In the Vestry minute on the death of Mr. Simes, it was said, "He took a deep interest as Superintendent of the Sunday School, and found it a helpful adjunct to the services of the Church." It was characteristic of Mr. Simes' administration that the Sunday School was not only the child of the Church, but more particularly its handmaiden. "Whatsoever ye do, do heartily," was the text of a pastoral letter to the Sunday School teachers on one occasion, and it denotes the spirit of the school, which quickly responded to Mr. Simes' magnetic leadership, and grew beyond all bounds. On the tenth anniversary of his taking charge of the Parish, he was able to report that the Sunday School was made up of 26 teachers and about 600 scholars, that there were two Bible classes of 126 members and a Men's Bible Study of 80 or 90 persons; a Mother's Meeting, composed of 150 women, and a Sewing School of 250 members. By that time there wasn't an unrented pew, the Church was clear of debt and able to meet all obligations. During the ten years he had officiated there had been 43 adults baptized and 507 infants, and 161 persons had been confirmed, 421 couples married; and there were 253 funerals\*.

In 1876 a Service program announced the Church Services and the Sunday School activities as follows: Sunday Services at 10½ A. M. and 3½ P. M.; Communion Service at 10½ A. M. and Service of Song at 7½ P. M. on the first Sunday of the month; Children's Church on the afternoon of the Third Sunday; Infant Baptism on the afternoon of the last Sunday of each month. Sunday Schools, 9 A. M. and 2 P. M.; Young Ladies' Bible Class, 2 P. M.; Young Men's Bible Class, 9 A. M. and 2 P. M.; Mothers' Meeting, Tuesday evenings at 7½ o'clock; Service and Lecture, Subject: "The Women of the Bible," Wednesday evenings at 7¾ o'clock; Children's Sewing School, Saturday afternoons

\* In forty-seven years, Mr. Simes and his assistants baptized 2,009 infants, and 82 adults; presented 743 for confirmation; married 1,280 couples; and officiated at 1,154 funerals.

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at 2½ o'clock. In 1877 to the above schedule was added a Bible Study, meeting on Friday evenings at 8, and the Wednesday meeting was called a Praise Service.

The Mothers' Meeting and Children's Sewing School were fully organized by November, 1870, and were under Mrs. Simes' personal direction. For years they were most successful, Mrs. Simes being aided by an enthusiastic and very capable corps of friends and parishioners. Many of the Sewing School children became skilled dressmakers in time; and many of the poor in the neighborhood were taught to make their own clothes, receiving the materials and instruction free.

### Mrs. Simes' Leadership

Of all the work undertaken for men, the most successful was the "Men's Bible Study," conducted from 1878 to 1891 by Mrs. Simes. Not only did she have the Bible classes for young men meeting both Sunday morning and afternoon, but also, she was solely responsible for the heavy work of conducting this very large group which met on Sunday evenings. A report compiled for the first anniversary of this class, indicates the wholesome spirit and the enthusiastic co-operation existing between the members and their revered leader. A part of this report is herewith quoted:

"The numbers and interest have steadily increased until there are now on roll eighty names, and of these, quite a number have never missed a single service. While a roll is kept and called at each meeting, none are obliged to enter their names, as it is entirely voluntary on their part, and some of our most regular attendants prefer not to be enrolled. The average attendance for each month, since the beginning of this work, has been as follows:

January, 25	April, 56	October, 68
February, 48	May, 63	November, 56
March, 53	June, 58	December, 68

"Different Bible subjects of study were considered during the past year, and great assistance was found in the use of the beautiful diagrams kindly loaned by Mr. George C. Thomas, of the Church of the Holy Apostles. The portions of God's Word thus studied from week to week were made quite interesting, and we trust, profitable to all. Since December, however, another plan has been tried, and Scripture characters taken as the subjects of study, and the lives of Abel, Enoch, Noah and Abraham have already been considered.



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"Another interesting feature of this work has been the free monthly entertainments of readings, lectures and music. These have proved very acceptable to the members of the 'Bible Study,' and their friends, and have also been the means of increasing the interest, and drawing into the Sunday evening services, those who otherwise would have known nothing of this work."

Besides the monthly entertainment of the Men's Bible Study there were other fixed social events which played a large part in the life of the Sunday Schools. Every winter, from 1880 to 1892, there was an annual reunion of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Bible Classes, with special entertainment in the Sunday School room. Then there was the Christmas entertainment each year; an event eagerly looked for. The Sunday School Library, first equipped in 1872, served for many years a great need in a neighborhood remote from any public library.

In 1906 an interesting custom was established, which did much to hold the teachers of the Sunday School, as well as to increase the attendance at morning service. Hot coffee and tea were served in the Bible class room, after morning service, to those who brought their lunch and thus were enabled to stay conveniently for the afternoon session of the School and Church service. For this purpose, a gas plate was set up in the Library room, which was used as the kitchen.

### Missionary Zeal

As the years went by an alien population changed the character of the Church's environment, and greatly modified its work. Yet, at the close of 1899, a Philadelphia newspaper truly stated that, "Strange to say, never in its long history was Gloria Dei in such a prosperous condition as at present. Its sittings are nearly all taken, the rentals amounting last year to \$1,808. Its Sunday Schools and Bible Classes are full to overflowing, so that no place can be found large enough to accommodate them when combined. Few parishes in the diocese give more evidences of life and activity than Old Swedes'. Peace and harmony have ever marked the Parish during the long Rectorship of thirty-one years of the present

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incumbent. . . . Nearly three-score years old, he is an enthusiast on the bicycle, which he utilizes to visit his widely scattered parishioners. He is still vigorous and active, but as soon as the Vestry can find a young man to whom the work may be committed, he is ready, as he told them in his recent anniversary sermon, to sing his Nunc Dimittis and say, 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation!'"

Still, Mr. Simes remained on serving the Church; and some remarkable results were achieved in the closing years of his ministry. Having secured an endowment for the old Church, his interest and influence were given to helping others, and this was done especially through the Sunday School, which became noted throughout the Church for its gifts to missions.

From 1901 the Easter Offerings of the Sunday School and Bible Classes were devoted to missions, and a large part of the Advent offerings were used for various charitable purposes. The total amount of the Easter offerings from 1901-1915 was \$26,180.81; which annually paid the missionary apportionment of the Church and the surplus was given to specials. Throughout the year, missionaries from various domestic and foreign fields would address the School and congregation at the afternoon service, and invariably the cause they presented was substantially recognized at Easter. The accumulation of this offering became the absorbing effort of the year, and its presentation was the occasion for great enthusiasm. Special programs containing the carols and order of service were printed, some of them most elaborate. The School was always well-drilled in the singing, and the service became noted for its bright features. Upon the presentation of the offering, the names of the several classes were read, and the amount of their contribution. With eager haste, various calculations of the total were made, one previously appointed to do so giving the correct sum at last. Meanwhile Mr. Simes would make encouraging and appreciative comments. After



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the total was announced the Doxology was sung at Mr. Simes' bidding.

The presentation of the Christmas offering; and that at the close of the School year, usually the last Sunday in May, were attended with like enthusiasm and interest.

### After Labor, Rest

Placing Mr. Simes along with Doctor Collin and Doctor Clay as the three outstanding Rectors of Gloria Dei, the Rev. Herbert J. Cook wrote the following poem as a tribute to Mr. Simes on the forty-first anniversary of his rectorship:

Two centuries these temple walls have stood  
'Mid busy haunts of men, and moss-grown graves  
Six generations here have had the Food  
Of Christ, and heard the Gospel pure, that saves  
The soul, and helps men live the life of love.  
Three pastors true, for well-nigh six score years,  
Have walked with God, and taught of things above,  
And shared, with all alike, their smiles or tears.  
Three voices sweet have led in Prayer and Praise,  
Three hands have broken here the Bread of Life,  
And three, have guided souls in Heavenly ways.  
In peace and quiet, far from worldly strife,  
Still leading on thy Flock, through grace, aright;  
For thee, "At evening time it shall be Light."

On June 13, 1915, Mr. Simes bade the congregation farewell for the summer, and preached on the text, "The Lord Watch Between Thee and Me, When We Are Absent One from Another," Gen. 31:49; remarking that this had been suggested to him by a verse recited by a member of the Infant School the previous Sunday. While spending the summer at Falmouth, Mass., he was taken suddenly ill and died on the eighteenth of July.

The funeral services were held in the Church, on Wednesday the 21st, both Bishops of the Diocese attending and a large number of the clergy, besides a congregation of friends and parishioners that more than filled the edifice. The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Rhinelander, Bishop, and the Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Garland, Suffragan, with the Rev. Herman L. Duhring, of the City Mission, and the

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Rev. J. Thompson Carpenter and the Rev. Charles E. Betticher, Jr., occupied the Chancel and took part in the service. Interment was made in a vault just south of the Church door, and the committal was read by Bishop Rhinelander.

Mrs. Simes remained at the Rectory during the winter of 1915-16, faithfully helping to keep the congregation together and participating with the Church Wardens and the lay reader, Mr. Allen Evans, Jr., in directing the Parish work. Upon the installation of Mr. Simes' successor, in the fall of 1916, Mrs. Simes went to California for the winter, seeking rest and health. She returned in the Spring, identifying herself once more with all the Church interests, and was a most faithful attendant at the services. Her frail and failing physique could not thwart the spirit of earnestness and devotion which was so characteristic of her. In February, 1918, her health rapidly gave way, and her death came quietly on the twenty-first.

Funeral services were held in the Church on the afternoon of the twenty-sixth, the Rector of Gloria Dei Church; the Rev. Robert Norwood, a son of Mr. Simes' first lay reader; and the Rev. Charles E. Betticher, Jr., taking part. Interment was made in the same plot where Mr. Simes had been buried, in the Churchyard. One stone cross marks their common grave; bearing witness that, in death, as in life, they are as one.

"By their fruits ye shall know them," said our Blessed Lord. Of Mr. and Mrs. Simes it may be said that they were both possessed of a devout spirit, leading to conscientious service; a sound mind, giving wise counsels; and a wholesome affection, which inspired confidence and loyalty. The fruits of their ministry are found in consecrated lives, ennobled by blessed memories, giving expression to their faith in many forms of service. These lives are their memorial; Gloria Dei Church is their monument.



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### A Memorial Gift

The congregation and Sunday School, and the friends of Gloria Dei Church, decided in the Spring of 1918 to place a Memorial on the Mission Field, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Simes, to take the form of the endowment of a bed in the Wuchang General Hospital, China (Dr. Mary James, a friend of theirs, being in charge of the women's work there), the gift to be marked by a plate bearing the following inscription:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
SNYDER BINNS SIMES, 1842-1915

AND OF  
ELEANOR RICHARDS SIMES, 1842-1918  
HIS FAITHFUL WIFE AND FELLOW-SERVANT IN THE LORD  
HE WAS RECTOR OF GLORIA DEI (OLD SWEDES') CHURCH  
PHILA., PA., U. S. A.—1868-1915

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THIS ENDOWED BED COMMEMORATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR COMING TO GLORIA DEI CHURCH, THE GIFT OF THEIR CONGREGATION, SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND FRIENDS, DECEMBER 8, 1918.

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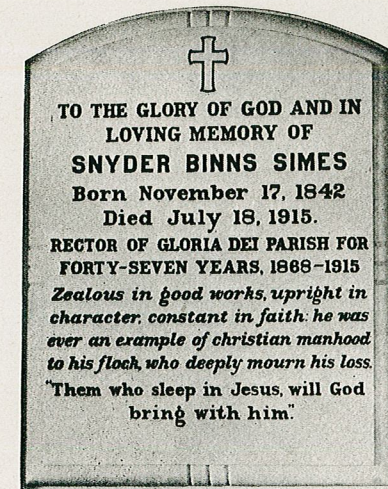
Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye Heavenly host,—  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

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Erected 1916

Quotation from the Bishop's annual review, read at the Diocesan Convention of 1916, in referring to the death of Mr. Simes:

"No words can adequately describe the close-knit family affection that bound his people to him and made the venerable parish a veritable spiritual home for all its members. The patient, loving faithfulness of ministry, the deep and simple piety of life, the fine and kindling missionary enthusiasm which marked him and endeared him to all who knew him, will give him an undying memorial among us."



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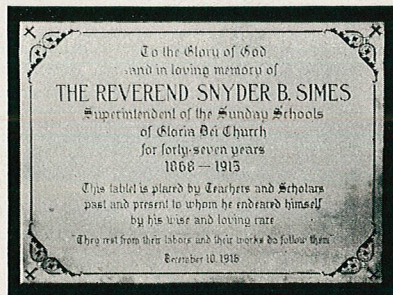
## THE BOOK OF MEMORY

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**CHANCEL BRACKET**

In memory of the Rev. Snyder B. Simes.  
Dedicated Nov. 18, 1917.  
The gift of Mr. R. Edey Clay.



Unveiled, December 10, 1916  
in the Chapel.

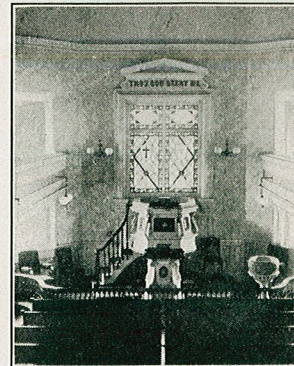
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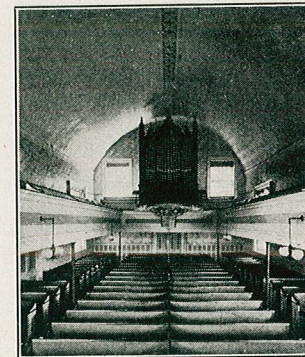
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**THE NAVE AND CHANCEL**  
when Mr. Simes became  
Rector of Old Swedes'



**THE OLD ORGAN**  
Installed, 1862. Renovated, 1872.  
Replaced, 1903.

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